

Amendment to the Claims

1-34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) A shut-off device for protection against explosion in a pipe-line, said shut-off device comprising:

 a piston slidably disposed in a cylinder so as to define a working chamber in said cylinder;

 a pressure medium housing surrounding said cylinder and forming a pressure medium reservoir, said housing having an end wall forming an end face of the pressure medium reservoir,

 said end wall defining a pressure chamber outlet port and a connecting duct leading to the working chamber of said cylinder,

 wherein said cylinder is arranged within said pressure medium reservoir, and said end wall of said housing delimits the working chamber of said cylinder;

 a slide valve plate slidable transversely to a direction of flow;

 a piston rod connecting said slide valve plate to said piston; and

 at least one closing valve for permitting selective communication between said pressure medium reservoir and said working chamber to permit actuation of said piston by a pressure medium and thereby move said slide valve plate to a closing position,

 said closing valve being fitted in said end wall of said pressure medium housing and having a valve disk for selectively closing said connecting duct, wherein said outlet port surrounds at least a portion of said connecting duct.

36. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 35, wherein said piston rod is slidably guided through a second end wall of said pressure medium housing.

37. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 36, further comprising a slide valve housing connected to said pressure medium housing, wherein said slide valve plate is arranged in a gap formed by said slide valve housing.

38. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the second end wall of said housing defines an outlet port, and said cylinder defines a displacement chamber on an opposite side of said piston relative to said working chamber, wherein said outlet port connects said displacement chamber to a quick-venting valve fitted in said second end wall.

39. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 37, wherein said slide valve plate includes a flow passage opening and a flow shut-off portion.

40. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 35, further comprising:

a pair of opposed flange parts attached to said slide valve housing, said flange parts defining through passages which together form a through aperture, wherein the flow passage opening in said slide valve plate aligns with the through passages of said flange parts in an open position of said slide valve plate; and

an annular sealing element fitted in an end face of each of said flange parts, each of said annular sealing elements having a sealing ring surrounding the respective through passage and forming a guide for said slide

valve plate, each of said sealing rings being formed of a material having good sliding properties.

41. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 37, further comprising an abutment strip disposed in an end portion of said slide valve housing, and at least one elastomer part loosely placed between the abutment strip and an end piece connected to said slide valve housing.

42. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 35, further comprising a cap disposed on said pressure medium housing, wherein a part of the closing valve and other control elements for controlling the movement of said piston or of said slide valve plate are arranged outside of said pressure medium housing and are encapsulated by said cap.

43. (New) A shut-off device for protection against explosion in a pipe-line, said shut-off device comprising:

a first piston slidably disposed in a first cylinder so as to define a working chamber in said first cylinder;

a second piston slidably disposed in a second cylinder so as to define a working chamber in said second cylinder, wherein said first and second cylinders are arranged in parallel to each other;

a pressure medium housing surrounding said first and second cylinders, said pressure medium housing forming a pressure medium reservoir, said pressure medium housing having a first end wall forming an end face of said pressure medium reservoir,

said first end wall defining a pressure chamber outlet port and a forked connecting duct leading to the working chambers of said first and second cylinders, wherein said first and second cylinders are arranged within said pressure medium reservoir, and said first end wall of said housing forms a cylinder head that delimits the working chambers of said first and second cylinders;

a slide valve plate slidable transversely to a direction of flow;

a first piston rod connecting said first piston to a first side area of said slide valve plate;

a second piston rod connecting said second piston to a second side area of said slide valve plate; and

a closing valve for permitting selective communication between said pressure medium reservoir and said working chambers of said first and second cylinders via said forked connecting duct to permit actuation of said first and second pistons by a pressure medium, thereby moving said slide valve plate to a closed position,

wherein said closing valve is fitted in said first end wall of said housing and has a valve disk for selectively closing said forked connecting duct, wherein said outlet port surrounds at least a portion of said forked connecting duct.

44. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 43, wherein said piston rod is slidably guided through a second end wall of said pressure medium housing.

45. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 44, further comprising a slide valve housing connected to said pressure medium housing, wherein said slide valve plate is arranged in a gap formed by said slide valve housing.

46. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 44, wherein the second end wall of said housing defines an outlet port, and said first and second cylinders define a displacement chamber on an opposite side of said piston relative to said working chamber,

wherein said outlet port connects said displacement chamber to a quick-venting valve fitted in said second end wall.

47. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 45, wherein said slide valve plate includes a flow passage opening and a flow shut-off part.

48. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 43, further comprising:

a pair of opposed flange parts attached to said slide valve housing, said flange parts defining through passages which together form a through aperture, wherein the flow passage opening in said slide valve plate aligns with the through passages of said flange parts in an open position of said slide valve plate; and

an annular sealing element fitted in an end face of each of said flange parts, each of said annular sealing elements having a sealing ring surrounding the respective through passage and forming a guide for said slide valve plate, said sealing rings being formed of a material having good sliding properties.

49. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 45, further comprising an abutment strip disposed in an end portion of said slide valve housing, and at least one elastomer part loosely placed between the abutment strip and an end piece connected to said slide valve housing.

50. (New) The shut-off device as claimed in claim 43, further comprising
a cap disposed on said pressure medium housing,
wherein a part of the closing valve and other control elements for
controlling the movement of said piston or of said slide valve plate are arranged
outside of said pressure medium housing and are encapsulated by said cap.